

6 (e) a trunion pivot connected to said linkage rod, said trunion pivot
7 including:
8 (i) a body portion with first and second end portions;
9 (ii) first and second bearing assemblies connected to said
10 respective first and second end portions; and
11 (iii) each of said first and second bearing assemblies having an
12 inner race and having an outer housing, and having rotational bearing elements
13 enclosed between said inner race and said outer housing;
14 (f) said outer housing of each of said first and second bearing
15 assemblies of said trunion pivot contacting said rocker bracket to provide free
16 pivotal movement of said linkage rod with respect to said rocker bracket and with
17 respect to said vane.

18 (g) said rocker bracket includes two opposed, spaced-apart wings each
19 having a bearing-receiving recess for supporting one of said bearing assemblies;

20 (h) said bearing-receiving recesses are spaced apart a distance
21 substantially equal to a distance between said bearing assemblies;

22 (i) each said inner race of said first and second bearing assemblies of
23 said trunion pivot extends outward from the associated outer
24 housing; and

25 (j) each said first and second end portions of said body portion of said
26 trunion pivot includes a recess sized and shaped to receive said
27 outwardly-extending end of said inner races of said first and second
28 bearing assemblies.

1 15. (New) A damper assembly as in claim 14, wherein said trunion pivot includes
2 fastening means directed through said body portion and through said outwardly-

3 extending ends of said inner races of said first and second bearing assemblies for
4 fixedly attaching said bearing assemblies to said body portion.

16. (New) A damper assembly as in claim 15, wherein said trunion pivot includes a
linkage rod-receiving hole between said recesses in said first and second end
portions of said body portion, said linkage rod-receiving hole being sized and
shaped to slidably receive said linkage rod.

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 2 and 6–16 will be pending.

Claims 3-5 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.
New claims 14 – 16 correspond to original claims 3-5. Therefore, claims 14-16 are
in condition for allowance.

Claims 1,2 and 6-13 stand rejected under section 103(a) in view of
Josephson and Paredes.

The invention, as recited in independent claims 1 and 11, is a damper assembly comprising a trunion pivot having a pair of bearing elements with rotational bearing elements enclosed between an inner race and an outer housing, where the outer housing of each bearing assembly contacts a rocker bracket affixed to a damper vane to provide friction free control and movement of the damper assembly. The invention substantially reduces the energy required to operate the damper, and significantly increases the resistance to corrosion and operating life of the damper.

As the examiner acknowledges, Josephson does not include any anti-friction bearings. Instead, Josephson discloses a damper assembly having a solid

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